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TAX-FREE INTERIM DEFICIT BUDGET FOR MADRAS

Relief for Village Officials and Harijan converts

NOTHING MORE POSSIBLE FOR N.-G.O.s WITHOUT UNION AID

MADRAS, Dec. 17.

THE Finance Minister, Mr C. Subramaniam, today presented to the Legislative Assembly an interim Budget for four months from April 1957, which shows a deficit of Rs 506 lakhs.

The Budget is free from any fresh taxation proposals, but the Finance Minister has announced the following concessions:

All education and medical concessions applicable to Non-Gazetted officers will be extended to Village Officers of all categories.

Village servants of the category of Talayari, Vetti, and Nirkatti will be made eligible for full remission of school fees for the education of their children from Forms IV to VI as in the case of last grade Government servants.

These concessions will be available from the date of the order for a portion of the current year.

Village Officers and servants of settled Ryotwari villages and Kaznas, including Tirune officers of estate villages taken over by the Government, will be given travelling allowance for their journeys at consolidated rates according to the distance ... their respective villages ... the Taluq Headquarters. ... headmen of Estate villages ... over will also be given certain allowances to cover actual ... of their journeys on duty.

Harijan converts to Christianity will be eligible for all the education concessions applicable to Harijans.

Sympathy for N.G.Os

Mr Subramaniam said nearly ... 2 crores of the expected deficit was the direct consequence of the recent enhancement in emoluments of N.G.O.s, school teachers and local Board servants. It might be true that this enhancement did not give adequate relief to the low paid employees. However much they might sympathise with their plight the House should appreciate that it is beyond the resources of the State Government to do anything more without a substantial measure of Central assistance."

The Minister took 15 minutes to present the budget, making the briefest budget speech in recent years. He was hastily cheered as he rose to deliver the speech in Tamil ... usually enthusiastic cheering marked the conclusion of his speech.

This is the first time the budget speech is in Tamil, though on former occasions a brief memorandum of the budget proposals was prepared in Tamil for the benefit of members not knowing English.

'Vote on account' only

Mr C. Subramaniam, Finance Minister, presenting the Budget said:

Even though this is an interim budget it attempts to give a picture of the financial position of the State for the current year, and the prospects for the coming year on the existing structure of Receipts and Expenditure. Members are well aware of the special circumstances which have necessitated this Budget at this part of the year. This House has almost exhausted its mandate, and by the time the new financial year opens the general elections would have been completed and a new Government would have assumed office. It is the responsibility of that Government to frame the Budget for 1957-58 according to the policies which they would like to pursue. The new Government will therefore, consider the Budget afresh and recast it, making provisions for new schemes and taxation proposals, and this will be presented to both the Houses of the Legislature about June, 1957.

There will be only a 'Vote on Account' on the present Budget, to meet the anticipated expenditure under each demand during the first four months of the next year. A White Paper explaining briefly the Accounts of the year 1955-56, the Revised Estimate for 1956-57 and the Budget Estimate for 1957-58 as now framed, is being circulated to Hon'ble Members. The detailed Budget documents have not been prepared in the special circumstances of this year.

States Reorganisation

The Revised Estimates for the current year include the Receipts and Expenditure for the first seven months of this year in the areas transferred to other States, and for the last five months in the areas that have newly come to this State.

On the basis of the very rough assessment now made, the expenditure for the period, November, 1956 to March, 1957, in the areas that have come from the former Travancore-Cochin State and since constituted into the district of Kanyakumari, is expected to exceed the receipts by about Rs 23 lakhs. For the coming year, the excess expenditure over receipts in this area is now expected to be about Rs 36 lakhs, and this will increase when provision is made in due course for new schemes. As against this additional outlay, we gain relief to an almost equal extent on Malabar and South Kanara districts transferred from this State to Kerala and Mysore.

Revised Estimates

The Budget Estimate for 1956-57 as originally presented to the Legislature, anticipated a revenue deficit of Rs 166 lakhs, after taking credit for a sum of Rs 145 lakhs from new taxation measures. The Revised Estimates for the year as now framed provide for a total revenue of Rs 57,08 lakhs and an expenditure on Revenue Account of Rs 60,87 lakhs, showing a revenue deficit of Rs 379 lakhs. The deficit is large and should cause us some concern, especially in view of the favourable agricultural season. But we had to incur during the course of the year considerable expenditure on relief measures on the cyclone which caused havoc in the southern districts last December.

The total cost of all these relief measures is now estimated at Rs 809 lakhs, made up of Rs 122 lakhs on gratuitous relief, Rs 315 lakhs on repairs to public works, and Rs 372 lakhs on loans. The outlay during the current year amounts to Rs 615 lakhs, which is Rs 377 lakhs more than what we had estimated originally. We expect to get a fair measure of Central assistance on these relief measures but the balance has to come out of State revenues.

Another cause for the large deficit, is the recent enhancement in the emoluments of low-paid public servants which will cost us during the remaining portion of the year about Rs 65 lakhs.

Besides, some of the measures of additional taxation proposed for the year such as the additional levy on Inam lands and diesel oil have yet to be implemented and the fall in revenue ... because of the delay in implementing new taxation proposals is expected to be about Rs 70 lakhs. We have also initiated during the year several new schemes included in the Plan and the deficit in the Revenue Account should have been much larger, but for the favourable trend in certain major sources of revenue such as the General Sales Tax, Agricultural Income-tax, and the Motor Vehicles Tax.

Capital expenditure

The Capital Expenditure in the current year is now expected to amount to Rs 24.14 crores against Rs 27.61 crores provided in the original Budget The The Electricity and Irrigation Departments are hoping to spend their original allotments more or less in full. The short-fall in capital outlay is largely in the building programme, mainly due to the acute shortage of essential building materials like cement and steel

Budget estimate

The Budget Estimates for 1957-58 provide for a Revenue of Rs 52.65 lakhs on the basis of existing taxation, and an expenditure of Rs 57,71 lakhs, resulting in a deficit of Rs 506 lakhs. Many new schemes of expenditure covered by the Plan. have been included as per detailed list appended to the White Paper. Provision has been made only for such new schemes as are expected to be ready for implementation from the very beginning of the next year. Other schemes will be considered and incorporated in the regular Budget for the year, after the elections. The total net provision for new schemes is Rs 130 lakhs in the Revenue Account, and Rs 248 lakhs in the Capital and other Accounts.

The new Government will indeed

(Continued on page 1)

U. S. invitation to Tito likely

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17: President Tito, of Yugoslavia, may be invited to visit the United States next year, diplomatic sources said last night.

They added that such a visit had been under serious consideration for some time, but they knew of no plans for such a visit in the immediate future.

BILLS PENDING

Will lapse when House is dissolved: Speaker

NEW DELHI, Dec. 17: The Speaker, Mr M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, today ruled that Bills pending in the Lok Sabha, but not passed, will lapse with the dissolution of the House after the General Elections.

The ruling was given on a point of information raised by the P.S.P. member, Mr H. V. Kamath, in the Lok Sabha today.

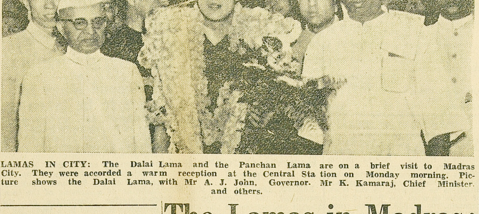
Mr Ayyangar said Bills pending in the Rajya Sabha would not, however, lapse with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. It was now for the Government to decide which Bills they would like to bring to this House, and which Bills they would keep pending in Rajya Sabha.

Andhra Minister's novel experience

HYDERABAD, Dec. 17: Mr V. B. Raju, Labour Minister, had a novel experience when at 2 a.m. yesterday, about 300 cinema operators and hotel workers called at his residence near the Fateh Maidan shouting slogans. The Minister, who was fast asleep, hurriedly left the bed thinking something dreadful had occurred.

The demonstrators apologetically told him the nature of their duties was such that they could find time only at this unearthly hour, after the night shows were over, to see him and represent their grievances.

The Minister gave them a patient hearing, and retired to bed.



LAMAS IN CITY: The Dalai Lama and the Panchan Lama are on a brief visit to Madras City. They were accorded a warm reception at the Central Station on Monday morning. Picture shows the Dalai Lama, with Mr A. J. John, Governor. Mr K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister. and others.

Egypt to complain against U.K. in U.N.

CAIRO, Dec. 17: The Egyptian Government will file a complaint in the U.N. over "activities of Britain and France in violation of international law".

An announcement said the complaint would concern the freezing of Egyptian assets in Britain and France, and "harsh measures against Egyptian nationals in both countries."

Port Said street

PARIS, Dec. 17: Every town in Egypt is to have a street called "Port Said", Cairo Radio announced last night.

The Minister for Town Planning has instructed the Mayor of every town to carry out the renamin g of a street in each town.

The Lamas in Madras: Reception at Central

By a "Mail" Reporter

MADRAS, Dec. 17.

THE Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama, who arrived this morning by a special train from Bangalore, were accorded an enthusiastic reception by the citizens who had gathered in large numbers near the Central Station, and along the routes leadig to Raj Bhavan and the State Guest House.

The Central Station was tastefully decorated. and the special train which left Bangalore at 11-40 p.m. yesterday arrived punctually at 9 a.m.

The Dalai Lama was the first to alight from the train. As soon as it pulled up at the first platform siding the Dalai Lama came to the door of the compartment with a smile, and offered namaskar to the Governor, Mr A. J. John, and thers who had assembled on the platform.

Garlanded

The Dalai Lama was garlanded by the Governor who introduced the guest to the Chief Minister, Mr K. Kamaraj, the Chief Justice, Mr P. V. Rajamannar, Ministers, and others.

Those present on the platform to receive the Lamas included besides Mr Kamaraj, Mr M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Labour. Mr B. Parameswaran, Minister for Transport and Prohibition, Mr T. A. Joseph, General Manager, Southern Railway, Mr V. R. Rajaratnam, Inspector-General of Police, Mr W. R. S. Sathyanathan, Chief Secretary, Dr P. V. Cherian, Chairman, Legislative Council, Mr B. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu, Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, Mr R. E. Castell, Sheriff of Madras, Mr M. M. S. Sivaraman, Collector, Mr K. Draviyam, Director of Information Mr K. N. Srinivasan, Mayor of Madras Mrs Jothi Venkatachallam, former Minister for Prohibition, Srimathi Rukmani Devi, Mr P. Kakkan, President, T.N.C.C. Commander J. S. Ramadas, Resident Naval Officer, Group Capt. P. Satyanarayana, Bikku Jinananda Thero, of the Maha Bodhi Society, representatives of the Chinese-Consul in the City and prominent Chinese residents.

The Dalai Lama, accompanied by the Governor, Mr A. J. John, then left for Raj Bhavan, where he will be the guest of the Governor during his stay in the City.

The Panchen Lama alighted from the train a few minutes later, and was received by Mr K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, and garlanded. The Chief Minister introduced the Panchen Lama to those who were on the platform. The Panchen Lama then drove to the State Guest House, Chepauk where he will stay.

The Lamas, accompanied by over 60 members of their personal staff, visited the Gemini Studios this morning.

They were received by Mr S. S. Vasan, and taken round the various sections.

At the Studio theatre, they witnessed a few reels of "Avvayar" and evinced a keen interest in the film. They were also shown the "Voice of India", a picture depicting Mahatma Gandhi's struggle for independence of India, and a documentary of their visit to India and stay at Delhi produced by the Films Division of India.

In the evening, they were accorded a Civil Reception at My Ladye's Gardens, People's Park, by the Mayor, Mr K. N. Srinivasan, who presented them, on behalf of the citizens of Madras, carved ivory statues of Nataraja and Krishna as souvenirs.

INDIA WANTS TO BE A "BRIDGE"–NEHRU

No desire to be leader or under others leadership

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.

MR JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, said here last night that India wanted to be a "bridge", but not a leader in world affairs.

Speaking in Hindi to Washington's Indian community a few hours after he arrived for talks with President Eisenhower the Prime Minister said: "Often in America the papers say India wants to be the leader of Asia.

"We do not want to be a leader, neither do we want to be under the leadership of anyone else.

"There is no much fear, jealousy, and violence in the world, that it is good to hope for a bridge (between nations) which India is."

An unofficial translation of Mr Nehru's remarks was given to correspondents later by an Indian Embassy official.

Mr Nehru said India's role was one of non-interference in the affairs of other nations. "We have to develop our country, and we have to do this with peaceful methods, not by interfering with others nor by posing as a leader.

Test of friendship

"We want to make friends, and keep friends. The test of friendship is to keep it when we do not agree".

Referring to India's five principles for co-existence, Mr Nehru said India had followed these since ancient times. They were not new, but India was trying to apply their moral force in the political field.

Discussing India's economy, he said the successful first 5-Year Plan was modest, but the Second Plan was much bigger, and Indians would have to work much harder.

"We will, perhaps, have more difficulties than we anticipated made worse by the Suez and other crises.

He said President Eisenhower told him that he wanted to have a greater understanding of the Plan, and he (the Prime Minister) said he would be glad to discuss it in their talks this week.

Mr Nehru told the Indian community: "If President Eisenhower comes to India, and I hope he will, we will give him a great welcome equal to any."

Path shown by Gandhiji

Mr Nehru described the progress of the Community Projects and National Extension Service in the villages as a great revolutionary development, and said this was "walking in the path" shown by Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhiji was a man of peace given to non-violence. Nevertheless he was a great revolutionary too. Gandhiji's method was to combine revolutionary work with peaceful methods, a thing that was now being developed in India in the political, economic, and social fields. That was the only sensible way to improve the country.

India's 5-Year Plan was not a mere paper Plan. India was trying to make the Plan a live one. There was some criticism that India was trying to go much faster than it should, Mr Nehru said adding amidst laughter: "But he who rides the tiger cannot afford to dismount."

"India's wealth is her children. They are tomorrow's Bharat. They are something more than mountains and rivers. And though we are a poor country, we have to make every effort to provide them with homes, with food, and with schooling." This could not be achieved by waving a magic wand. But only by hard and sustained efforts.

"In India today we are playing a great and exciting game. Let us all participate in it. Jai Hind."

Dinner

Mr Nehru was guest of honour last night at a dinner given by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Mr Earl Warren and Mrs Warren.

All the nine Supreme Court Justices attended together with Mr Herbert Brownell, U.S. Attorney-General, and the Chief of Protocol, Mr John Simmons and their wives.

Interim wage rise for Plantation labour

MADRAS, Dec. 17: The Supreme Court, it is learnt, today granted an interim increase of one anna from the present rate of Rs 1-7 to Rs 1-8 per day for plantation labour, as against Rs 2-4 awarded as wages by the Special Tribunal for Plantations.

The Supreme Court will take up the hearing of the case either in January or February.

"DULL, DRAB AND UNINTERESTING"

Opposition Leader's view on Interim Budget

By a "Mail" Reporter

MADRAS, Dec. 17.

MR P. RAMAMURTHI, Leader of the Opposition, described his reaction to the interim budget in three words, dull, drab, uninteresting. There was nothing in it to gloat over, he added.

Mr K. Kalyanasundaram, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, saw in the budget proposlas preparations for the coming election campaign. The hard case of the village officers was before the Government for a long time, but it thought of them only now, and to a restricted extent.

Mr V. Balakrishnan, Ind., felt there was a distinct appreciation on the part of the Government of the difficulties of the non-Gazetted Officers, and a lot of sympathy was genuinely expressed.

"To that extent," he claimed, "the budget is bound to satisfy the people in the lower income groups.

The expenditure of over a crore of rupees on the cyclone-affected areas is a feather in the cap of the Government, and, on this account, a wide gap has been created, which must be fully met by grants from the Union Government. On the whole, I think the budget is not disappointing."

Rejoices at speech in Tamil

Mr K. Vinayakam, K.M.P., rejoiced over the fact that the Finance Minister, made his budget speech in Tamil.

"For this day," he added, "we have been toiling and struggling for a long time, and, in due course I hope, with sincere effort, the Governemnt will have the budget proposals printed and delivered in Tamil."

He considered it a 'ways and means budget,' a budget given by the Government for a period for which "we are not responsible. So, if there are no good feature, I do not blame the Finance Minister, because it is not in his province to commit the coming Government to any particular policy."

He was glad something had been done for the village officers, and the Fourth Grade Government servants. But, any plea for not doing much to the N.G.Os could not be sustainable, for there was a lot to be done in their case.

Mr R. V. Swaminathan, Cong., said this being an interim budget, one could not expect more than what had been done by the Finance Minister. He welcomed as praiseworthy the Government's expenditure on cyclone relief, in spite of its heavy financial commitments.

Concessions to converts

Speaking about the concessions to Harijan converted to Christianity, Mr Swaminathan believed "every Harijan will feel satisfied that the Government has announced the grant of those concessions, enjoyed by Hindu Harijans, to Christian converts."

Similarly, he felt the business community, particularly middle class consumers, would welcome the Government's efforts to relieve the sales tax burden on such essential commodities like cloth, sugar and tobacco, by taxing them at the first source.

Archanas in Tamil in temples

Dravida Kazhagam to start agitation

A "Mail" Special

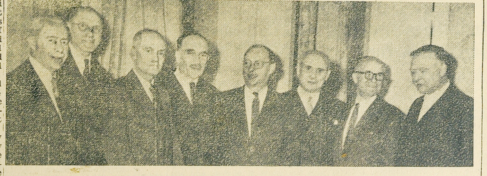
MADURAI, Dec. 17: The Dravida Kazhagam proposes to launch an agitation soon for the performance of archanas in temples in Tamil by Tamilians.

This was disclosed by Mr E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, Leader of the Dravida Kazhagam, at a meeting on Thursday, Mr Palsami presiding.

Mr Naicker referred to his recent talks with Srilasri Kunrakudi Adigalar, and said the report that he was prepared to visit temples for worship at the instance of Adigalar was not correct. He said Kunrakudi Adigalar had promised to give support to his proposed agitation for introduction of Tamil archanas in temples.

He asked why, when Kerala and Andhra States were named on the basis of language, Tamil Nad alone should have a different name. People here should feel strongly that they are Tamils.

Mr Naicker said though many parties opposed the Congress Party in the last elections, some of the oppositionists, after Congress victory, joined the Congress. People changed their parties for the sake of power. He praised Mr K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, for saving the people here from the "catastrophe" of the new elementary education scheme.



NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS: These are the eight of the nine Nobel Prize winners for 1956: (From left to right) Mr Walter Houser Brattain, of U.S.A., (Physics); Mr Dickinson W. Richards, U.S.A. (Medicine), Prof. Sir Cyril Norman Hinshelwood, Great Britain (Chemistry); Mr Nikolai Semenov, Russia (Chemistry); Mr John Barden, U.S.A. (Physics); Mr Andre-Cournand, U.S.A. (Medicine); William Shocklex, U.S.A. (Physics); and Werner Forssmann, Germany, (Medicine).

Lower postal rates for books

RECOMMENDATION BY COMMITTEE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 17: The "Book Rate" Committee set up by the Communications Ministry, to go into the question of postal rates for books, has recommended that "books" should be charged at the rate of nine pies for the first five tolas, and three pies for every additional 2½ tolas.

At present "book-packets" are charged one anna for the first five tolas.

Giving this information in the Rajya Sabha, in reply to Mr R. P. N. Sinha, Mr Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister, replying on behalf of the Communications Minister, said that the recommendations were still under the consideration of the Government.

The Mail

CALENDAR—DECEMBER

		Sun A.M.	Sun P.M.	Moon P.M.	Moon A.M.
Tue.	18th	6 25	5 46	6 31	6 40
Wed	19th	6 25	5 47	7 35	7 39
Thurs	20th	6 26	5 47	8 36	8 46
Fri.	21st	6 26	5 48	9 37	9 27
Sat.	22nd	6 27	5 49	10 34	10 16
Sun.	23rd	6 27	5 49	11 30	11 3
Mon.	24th	6 28	5 48	..	11 48

PHASES OF THE MOON
Tues. 18th Full Moon 12-36 A.M.

MADRAS TEMPERATURE
Monday

	(M)	(N)
Maximum	81.2	81.5
Minimum	66.7	66.9
Humidity	68%	59%

THE BUDGET

THE Madras Finance Minister did not occupy the time of the Legislative Assembly for very long in presenting what he calls an interim budget to cover the first four months of the next financial year, beginning in April, but he is handing down a legacy of a deficit of something over Rs 5 crores for his successor to deal with, when the question of financing the administration comes to be considered by the next Government which will take office after the general elections. The Leader of the Opposition called it a dull, drab and uninteresting budget, but in its potentialities it is certainly not that, and although there has been a respite in the matter of any new levies by way of taxation, it is only a respite, for, as Mr SUBRAMANIAM pointed out, the new Government will indeed have to consider ways and means of covering the large deficit in the revenue account. Perhaps before then there will be some indication of the intentions of the Union Government regarding several issues which are of importance to State Governments, especially those connected with sales taxes and allocations of various kinds, and also the extent of the assistance which will be forthcoming for the second five-year plan schemes which are to be put into operation.

As for the current year, the Finance Minister referred to the large deficit of nearly Rs 380 lakhs, but even so it must be a little consolation to know that that sum is almost balanced by the additional cost incurred on relieving distress and destruction caused by the cyclone which swept the southern districts a year ago. Additionally the deficit is enhanced because of the improvement in emoluments granted to certain grades of public servants, and that head will account for something like Rs 2 crores of the anticipated deficit for next year, including the cost of the additional concessions which are now being granted to many in the lower ranks of the services of the Government. In this connexion there will be support for the hopes of the Finance Minister that aid will be forthcoming from the Union Government because it is impossible for the State to do anything more towards granting adequate relief, without the assistance of the Centre. It is a matter under consideration.

Commenting on the current year the Minister told the House that the position could have been worse. The deficit would have been larger but for the favourable trend in certain major sources of income, such as the sales tax, agricultural income tax, and the motor vehicles tax, but estimated income from these is expected to be much lower, in the current year. The most important difference is in regard to agricultural income tax, and the explanation is given that the shortfall of something over Rs 30 lakhs can be accounted for by an anticipated decline in the income of plantations because of the fall in the price of tea, and the increase in the cost of labour amenities an ominous pointer. Part of it may also be due to the transfer of areas in which plantations are situated to the new neighbouring State of Kerala. But why the Finance Minister should fear a fall of over Rs 70 lakhs from the Sales Tax it is difficult to appreciate, especially as a higher standard of living is looked for, with an increased rate of spending. It is also anticipated that the new arrangements regarding excise in place of sales tax on certain commodities will result in larger accretions. The same might be said about the tax on motor vehicles, for as time goes on more and more are expected to be in operation to take care of the expanding economy of the country, and especially the expansions of small-scale and cottage industries, and the greater diffusion of these. Unless, of course, there is a possibility that encouragement will be given to this industry by a downward revision of the burden of taxation now carried.

As the Finance Minister remarks, the most striking feature of the capital budget is the continued substantial provision made for the carrying of electricity to the rural areas. Rapid progress is being made on large schemes for generation, and the number of villages to be electrified this year is to be double the original estimate, a rate of advance which it is hoped to continue in the next year. Thus Madras is maintaining a substantial lead over other parts of the country, and in this way the foundations are being laid for the expansion of the cottage industry ideal of the Planning Commission. The large increase in the provision for industries is indicative of the fact that the Government is alive to the needs of the people.

It might, however, he said that this interim statement contains many straws to show which way the wind will probably blow when the next Government comes into being and none will doubt that it will be a Congress one, and perhaps the Cabinet will include the present Finance Minister in the same capacity. In presenting this budget MR SUBRAMANIAM broke new ground, by making his speech in Tamil, although he circulated the details in the printed version in English. Perhaps that in itself is one of the straws showing a new way of thinking. There is certainly little in this statement which can adversely affect the prospects of the majority party in the coming elections, and it might even be said that the decisions to make concessions to a large number of village officers may have a beneficial reaction, especially as there is promise of further consideration of this long-standing problem. The respite from additional or new burdens will be welcomed.

The Indian Film

IT is a fact not sufficiently realised that the film industry is one of India's notable achievements. It ranks as the second biggest in the world, next only to the prodigious exertions of Hollywood. MR S. K. PATIL, who inaugurated the silver jubilee celebrations of the Indian "talkie" on Sunday in Bombay, pointed out that it provided employment for no less than five million persons. This makes it a factor of great social importance. There have been complaints that the industry has been suffering from lack of appreciation by the Government of its efforts and that it has been subjected to heavy taxation. That despite these handicaps it has been able to develop so well within the comparatively short period of twenty-five years is a certain sign of its vitality. It is now true to say that the film has taken a firm root in this country. There is no hamlet, however remote it may be, which has not experienced the pleasures of the "pictures". Its very qualities render this extensive popularity almost inevitable. Films, by their very nature, must succeed in India, where the vast majority of the population is illiterate and seeks a form of entertainment which will be pleasant without making too much demands on concentration and understanding. These requisites are amply fulfilled by a certain class of films.

But mere popularity or wide range will not suffice. The country is entitled to expect much higher qualities. The film is now recognised in the West as nothing less than a form of art, as integral in its own way as literature or music. But this conception is not much in evidence in India. While it is necessary to keep in mind the fact that films are intended to be witnessed by as many people as possible, it will be an error to permit it to develop at the expense of other and more artistic considerations. It is not always true that popularity is an enemy of art, but they seldom go together. Everyone in South India is familiar to his sorrow with those purgatories masquerading as entertainment, those films which take four or five hours to be completed, which never come to the point, and which burst into song at the most unseasonable moments. These are defects of artistic vision. Unless they are rectified, the Indian film industry may continue to glory in its large affiliations, but not in its merit. On the occasion of the silver jubilee it is necessary to keep these facts in mind.

Welcome Visitors

THEIR Holinesses the DALAI and PANCHEN LAMAS are now in Madras City in the course of their tour of India. They are welcome visitors. Tibet owes its religion and culture to India. It is an Indian, Padmasambava, who is called the apostle of Tibet. While in the ancient past there were frequent contacts between the two countries despite the immense barrier of the Himalayas, there was an almost complete cessation of them in recent centuries. Tibet has survived in popular legend for its "living Buddha" and the Potala, that mysterious fastness in Lhasa from where the country is ruled. At least one modern novel revolves around incidents in that remote country. But the conception of Tibet as a "Shangri-la", however pleasing it may be as a figment of romantic imagination, has no relevance in modern conditions. After centuries of lack of relationships with its northern countries, India is now drawing close to them. As is the case with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Their Holinesses have served by their speeches to reinterpret their country's ideas and aspirations to India. It may be true that politically Tibet is part of China, but it has with this country close affinities of a far more enduring type. It is appropriate that Their Holinesses should be visiting India at the time of the Buddha Jayanthi celebrations, for this emphasises the community of interest, the living bond of religion and culture. They will observe at Amaravathi and Nagarjunakonda, the sites in Andhra Pradesh notable for the Buddhist relics which they contain, and which they are to visit later, mute reminders of the strength of that religion in South India in the past and above all the splendid art to which it could give rise. They will also find in the institutions to which they are to be taken in Madras City an indication of the response of the modern epoch. They will not fail to be struck by the fact that India has found it possible to harmonise ancient and modern systems of life. The lesson is not without value to Tibet.

ELECTION TO HOUSE COMMITTEES

Motion passed in Assembly

MADRAS, Dec. 17: Mr C. Subramaniam, Leader of the House, today moved in the Legislative Assembly that the Assembly do proceed to elect three members to serve on the Committees of Estimates and five members to serve on the Committee of Public Accounts for the rest of the financial year.

The vacancies have occurred by some members on these committees ceasing to be members of the Assembly on the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 coming into effect from Nov. 1.

The motions were adopted, and the Deputy Speaker, Mr B. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu, who presided, announced the following programme of election: Last date and hour for receipt of nominations, 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18; Scrutiny 3-30 p.m., Last date and hour for withdrawal, 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 19. Poll (if there are more nominations than the vacancies) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20.

Memorial for T. N. Rajarathnam

"Mail" Special

KOVILPATTI, Dec. 17: A Nagasuram-like pillar is proposed to be erected in memory of Dr T. N. Rajarathnam Pillai at the place where he was cremated in Madras.

This information was given by Mr K. P. Arunachalam, Nagaswara Vidwan, on his return from Madras after attending the funeral of Mr Pillai. He also said that Rs One lakh would be collected from music lovers and given to the family of the late Nagaswara Vidwan. Nearly Rs 50,000 had already been promised by music lovers, he added.

Tamil Isai Sangham Board's sorrow

MADRAS, Dec. 17: The Board of Trustees of the Tamil Isai Sangham, on Saturday, Raja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiar, of Chettinad, presiding, passed a resolution expressing sorrow at the death of Dr T. N. Rajarathnam Pillai.

Vidvan Vasudevachariar of Mysore presiding, a meeting was held at Kalakshetra, Adyar, when a similar condolence resolution was passed. Mrs Rukmini Devi, Prof P. Sambamurthi and Mr E. Krishnamurthi Sastri spoke. A tape recording of some songs of the late Mr Pillai was played.

Mr T. U. Anantha Pai

UDIPI, Dec. 17: Mr T. U. Upendra Anantha Pai, 61, a veteran Congressman, died of a heart attack at his residence at Manipal, three miles from here, on Saturday night.

The late Mr Pai was closely connected with the M.G.M. College, and Kasturba Medical College, and other institutions. He is survived by two sons, Mr T. A. Pai, M.L.A. and Mr T. R. U. Pai, three daughters, and his brother, Dr T. M. A. Pai, Registrar of the Academy of General Education.—F.O.C.

Lorry overturns: 3 killed near Madurai

MADURAI, Dec. 17: Three occupants of a lorry were killed instantaneously, when the lorry capsized near Tirupachethi about 18 miles, from here, on the Madurai-Manamadurai Road on Saturday night.

The lorry was reported to be carrying about 200 ducks, a number of them being also killed. The lorry was completely damaged.

ARIYALUR DISASTER INQUIRY

Railway administration "callous"

COMMUNIST M.P.'s CHARGE

MADRAS, Dec. 17.

ALLEGATIONS of callousness and indifference on the part of the Railway Administration in not taking sufficient precautions were made today before the Inquiry Court which continued its public hearing in the recent train disaster near Ariyalur.

Mr K. Anandan Nambiar, M.P., who said he had visited the spot and gathered information, charged the Railways with indifference not only before the accident, but after the accident also. If they had taken minimum elementary precaution, they could have avoided the accident, he alleged.

Mr Justice H. K. Bose of the Calcutta High Court who constitutes the Commission, presided.

Mr T. S. Ramaswami, intervening on behalf of the Advocates' Association, said he believed there had been a structural defect in the construction of the bridge which had been the cause of the disaster, and his submission was that spans on the Trichy side should have been extended by one or more. It was not also good to build bridges over river bends. Directions given were not really as good as they ought to have been.

Speed of the train

He did not have any direct evidence of the speed of the train at the particular spot, but all the same the train was running late, and the stopping time at Ariyalur had been reduced from six minutes to three minutes. Medical relief also took a long time to reach the spot, and due to the prolonged salvage operations, difficulties were there for the public to identify relatives. He felt Army help ought to have been requisitioned.

Mr S. Krishnamurthy prayed permission to intervene, and said he wanted to make certain disclosures regarding the delay in handing over the bodies to the relatives. The Judge pointed out that it was beyond the reference of the Commission, and as such he could not allow him to intervene.

Warning by Tahsildar

Mr K. Anandan Nambiar said there had been heavy rain in the area for the previous three days, and special precautions should have been taken. He said he had reliable information that on Nov. 21, the Tahsildar of the locality had given information to the Railway P.W.D. Inspector and the Station Master of Ariyalur that certain tanks had been breached in the nearby area, and that care should be taken on the Railway lines. These information had not been passed on to the driver of the train who had gone on his engine, he said.

Mr Nambiar said his information was the patrolman found the river in a turbulent condition.

He said medical aid could have been rushed quickly, utilising engineers at the nearby station. He said the bridge in question was one with a history behind it, and information was that this all was not well with the Bridge.

Guard's evidence

Messrs K. S. Vaidyanathaswami, Guard on the ill-fated train, and Mr Vincent Raj, on duty in Ariyalur on the night, then gave evidence. The statement given by them was also then given by others given in the Inquiry conducted earlier by the Railway Inspector were read out to them.

To questions Mr Vaidyanathaswami said they had stopped at Ariyalur for only three minutes instead of the usual six minutes. He had noted the accident time as 5.28 a.m. because he found his watch had stapped at 5-28, because of the jolts it had been subjected to. There was also no rain at the time they ran into the caution signal before they reached Ariyalur.

Both witnesses answered questions from Mr Justice H. K. Bose the two technical assessors, Mr V. T Rangaswamy, appearing for the Railway Administration, Mr Ramaswamy Mr V. C. Srikumar, and also Mr K. A. Nambiar.

Caution signals

Mr Vincent Raj said they did not usually give caution unless authorised. There was nothing also unusual on that night. He did not also get any information to point out that there was something wrong.

He also said that he knew about the caution signal having been given near Pennadam, only after the disaster. He knew about the message received from the Tahsildar, but he did not go through the message, because it concerned some other bridge. If it concerned their section, they would take note of it.

At this stage, the Court rose for lunch.

Mill Manager stabbed

COIMBATORE, Dec. 16: Mr M. V. Narasimha Ayyangar, Manager of the Coimbatore Cotton Mills, and Honorary Secretary of the Coimbatore Institute of Management, has been admitted in the Government Headquarters' Hospital with stab injuries.

It is stated that while Mr Ayyangar was proceeding from his quarters to the mills, he was waylaid by a person, alleged to be a dismissed textile worker, and stabbed thrice in different parts of his body. Hospital authorities said Mr Ayyangar was progressing, and there was no cause for anxiety.

The alleged assailant is absconding.

ELECTION EXPENSES

New ceiling

NEW DELHI, Dec. 17.

NEW ceilings of permissible election expenses by a candilate have been fixed by the Government of India by amendments to the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules.

A copy of the amendments was laid before Parliament today by Mr H. V. Pataskar, Minister for Legal Affairs.

The Maximum permissible election expenses, according to the amended rules, are: Rs 35,000 in the case of a double-member parliamentary constituency in any State, and Rs 15,000 in any Union territory, Rs 25,000 for a single-member parliamentary constituency in a State, and Rs 10,000 in a Union territory.

The expenses permitted for an Assembly constituency are as follows:

State	Single-member constituency Rs.	Two-member constituency Rs.
Andhra	7,000	12,000
Assam	6,000	11,000
Bihar	8,000	13,000
Bombay	8,000	13,000
Kerala	7,000	12,000
Madhya Pradesh	7,000	12,000
Madras	9,000	14,000
Mysore	6,000	11,000
Orissa	7,000	12,000
Punjab	7,000	12,000
Rajasthan	6,000	11,000
Uttar Pradesh	9,000	14,000
West Bengal	7,000	12,000

Opposition to establishment of powerlooms

MADRAS, Dec. 17.

THE policy of the State Government is against the establishment of powerlooms, stated Mr M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Industries replying to a question in the Assembly today.

He added: "There is no question of any conflict between the Union and State Governments who have the same policy, and do not want to do anything which will affect even a single handloom. Subject to that the Government has been taking certain measures in the permanent interest of the handlooms themselves."

Asked about the order of priority followed by the Government in respect of encouragement to various kinds of cloth, the Minister said first preference was given to Khadi, then to handlooms, and thirdly to mill cloth.

Reconstruction of Marmalong Bridge

The dangerous condition of the Marmalong bridge over the Adyar River in Saidapet, and the need for urgent attention, were pointed out by members during question-time. The Minister for Public Works, Mr S. R. Sethupathi, said preliminary proposals for the reconstruction of the bridge were under consideration of the Government. As it was in a National Highway, the Government was trying to see whether the Government of India would not bear the cost of reconstruction.

Mr C. Subramaniam said that bridges in the National Highway were the responsibility of the Union Government, but the difficulty arose when it was in a stretch which fell within the Corporation or municipal area when it was the responsibility of the State Government the Corporation or the local body.

"We want to make an exceptional case with regard to this bridge in view of its importance. But whether we get the assistance of the Union or not, the work of reconstruction will be taken up "as early as possible."

Reorganisation of city divisions

Mr S. S. Ramaswami Padayachi Minister for Local Administration told the Assembly today that the Government would consider the question of amending the City Municipal Act for reorganising the divisions in the City. Proposals in this regard were received on the eve of the general elections to the Corporation Council in 1955. As there was hardly any time to enact the necessary legislation, it was considered that the matter should be deferred, and the conduct of elections proceeded with on the basis of the existing territorial divisions.

Mr C. Subramaniam, Minister for Education and Finance, told the House that while steps were being taken by the Government to increase the number of professional colleges they had to pause and consider whether it was advisable to increase the number of arts colleges in view of the fact that all those who passed out of Arts Colleges could not find employment.

The Minister told Mr K. Aranganathan that no proposal had been submitted to the Government by the Director of Public Instruction for the introduction of the shift system in the Arts and Professional colleges.

In regard to the introduction of shift system in professional colleges, the Minister said they had to examine whether it would affect the standard of teaching and was desirable. The Government was taking steps to start new professional colleges as there were many persons seeking admission. There was a proposal to open an Engineering College at Madurai.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET

Two days allotted

MADRAS, Dec. 17.

THE Deputy Speaker, Mr B. Bhaktavatsalu, today announced the following programme of the Assembly for discussion of the interim Budget for 1957, and for transaction of other official business, as approved by the Business Advisory Committee:

The Assembly will sit from 9 a.m. to 1-30 p.m. from Tuesday, Dec. 18 to Dec. 27.

General discussion on the budget on Dec. 18 and 19. Official business: Amendments to Rule 3 of the Rules issued under Sec. 40 (1) of the Madras Estates Land (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948; Amendments to Schedule IV to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920; and Discussion on the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the definition of the term 'Precincts of the House' on Dec. 20.

Voting

Vote on Account for 1957 on Dec. 21 and 22; General Discussion on the Final Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1956-57 (one hour) on Dec. 24; Voting on demands for Grants for further expenditure for 1956-57 (one hour) on Dec. 26, and consideration and passing of the appropriation Bills in respect of Vote on Account for the year 1957-58 and the Supplementary Grants for 1956-57 on Dec. 27.

New Bill

On Dec. 20, 24 and 26, after transacting other business fixed for the day, the Assembly will take into consideration the Madras Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1956; the Madras Inams (Assessment) Bill, 1956; the Pudukkottai (Settlement of Inams) Second Amendment Bill, 1956; the Madras Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Bill, 1956; the Madras Land Revenue (Surcharge) Second Amendment Bill, 1956; and a Bill to amend the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939 to increase the rate of tax on bullion.

QUICK CHANGES IN EXCISE DUTIES

Bill to empower Govt introduced in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec. 17: Mr T. T. Krishnamachari, Finance Minister, today introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha seeking to give powers to the Government to raise the existing excise duties, subject to a maximum of 50 per cent of the existing rates. The notification so issued will be placed before Parliament for subsequent approval.

The import duties also will be increased correspondingly where excise duties are raised.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill said: "In the present price situation, it may be necessary both for encouraging exports and for mopping of excessive profits to make quick changes in excise duties."

The High & the Low

THE Andhra Labour Minister, Mr V. B. Raju, had some midnight visitors on Friday. Not thieves or hooligans, or stranded men. They were all cinema operators and hotel workers.

All right, why at this unearthly hour? Could they not find any other time less inconvenient to them, and to the Minister?

Their excuse is they are not free at other hours. Maybe so with hotel workers, not the cinema operators. Is not the day at their disposal, even granting there are matinee shows during some hours.

And how on earth do cinema operators and hotel workers make common cause? The nature of their work and the conditions of service are totally different.

* * *

BUT the midnight hour has something unique, denied to other hours of night or day. Not even midday has it.

However, if they expect public enthusiasm to be whipped up in support of their cause, these workers are sadly mistaken.

Firstly because the public has no opportunity to witness the demonstrations.

And waking up a Minister from his sleep at dead of night is a thing with which nobody can agree.

He is after all, like any one of us, human. He may be a Minister, a servant of the people, elected by the people, yet he should have at least sleeping hours as his own.

* * *

WAS not the transfer of power from Britain to India celebrated at midnight of Aug. 15-16 in 1947?

The scenes of that day should be vivid in the minds of the people of this generation.

The nation's leaders, fighters for freedom for years, meeting at Delhi, and blazing forth the message to the people, how grand it was. What spectacular effect it had!

If such an hour is auspicious for an event like that, why not for this cause, workers may ask. But the difference is obvious, as much as between night and day.

* * *

WELL, at least the Hyderabad demonstrators were not violent. They were apologetic.

But the plight of the erstwhile Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Mahomed Ali, on the anniversary of the independence of Pakistan this year was different.

He and another Minister, Mr I. I. Chundrigar, had some midnight visitors—an unruly crowd of people, violent, shouting deafening slogans, following a meeting which they had attended.

It was over a British Police Officer in the service of Pakistan, who was going home on leave. The contention was that the officer had done some wrongs, and by his going on leave, he may escape punishment.

* * *

FANATIC spirit was whipped up at the meeting, from where the people marched to the Premier's residence and, raising slogans, demanded the personal appearance of the Premier.

And the Premier's explanation didn't satisfy them, and the result was slogans against the Premier himself.

Nor did they leave Chundrigar alone. The crowd created a furore in front of his residence also. But Chundrigar had the courage to rebuke the crowd.

That's not the way to go about doing things, he said.

Well, that was in Pakistan. The Hyderabad instance bears no comparison to it.

* * *

TRADITION has it that doing things at night, more so near about midnight is not favoured.

The hour is unearthly, unnatural. Only shady acts are said to be hatched at this hour.

Do they not say that it is the best hour for the villain plotting to oppress the poor.

It's the hour when the traitor broods over some fell design. These dark hours help robbers go swell in their nefarious jobs.

This time is most propitious for the prisoner to break loose his bonds, and escape.

Is it because of this India celebrated the ushering in of her freedom at this hour?

No, no, the hour was pitched upon by astrological calculation—auspicious so that the liberty achieved may be lasting and prosperous.

It is an exception, which never becomes the rule.

Workers, please note, no use trying to emulate the Hyderabad comrades. When the sun shines brightly, represent your grievances, and make your demands. That's the safest way.

N.J.R.

Madras Interim Budget

(Continued from page 1)

have to consider the ways and means of covering this large deficit in the Revenue Account. About Rs 2 crores of this deficit are the direct consequence of the recent enhancement in emoluments of Non-Gazetted Officers, school teachers and Local Board servants. It may be true that this enhancement does not give adequate relief to the low-paid employees.

However, much we may sympathise with their plight, the House should appreciate that it is beyond the resources of the State Government to do anything more without a substantial measure of Central assistance. Representations have been made to the Government of India, and the subject came up for discussion at the recent meeting of the National Development Council in Delhi. The Union Finance Minister is now considering the matter, let us hope sympathetically.

The Finance Commission, now in session, has also been apprised of the position, and further representations will be made when the Commission visits this State early in February.

Capital expenditure

The Capital Expenditure for 1957-58 is estimated at Rs 25,64 lakhs against Rs 24,14 lakhs included in the Revised Estimate for 1956-57. The details for the estimates are given in the White Paper. The most striking feature of the Capital Budget is the large provision amounting to about Rs 16 crores on Electricity Schemes. Rapid progress is expected to be made on the Kundah and Periyar Projects during the year. Rural electrification is also making appreciable headway as could be seen from the fact that about 1,000 villages will be electrified during the current year as against the Plan target of about 500 villages and we hope to maintain the pace in the coming year.

The ways and means requirements for the year will amount to Rs 37.57 crores. It is now hoped that this sum will be forthcoming by way of Central assistance, open market loans and additional taxation to the extent unavoidable.

Second Five-Year Plan

The provision made in the Revised Estimate, 1956-57, for the Plan, excluding the requirements of the Kanyakumari District and the areas transferred to other States, is about Rs 35 crores. There are appreciable short-falls from the Budget Estimates in certain items relating to agricultural production and village and small-scale industries. The organisation of these new items of development has taken more time than we had anticipated, but the progress so far made does give us fair hopes for the ensuing year. The provision made for the Plan in the coming year, is about Rs 40 crores. Broad details by heads of development will be found in an Appendix to the White Paper. For the Kanyakumari District, only a lump-sum has been included for both Plan and non-Plan schemes, the total amount being Rs 91 lakhs in the Revised Estimate, 1956-57 and Rs 180 lakhs in the Budget Estimate, 1957-58.

The Government has decided to extend to Village officers of all categories all the educational and medical concessions applicable to Non-Gazetted officers of the Government.

In addition, village servants of the category of Talayari, Vetti and Nirkatti, will be made eligible for full remission of school fees for the education of their children from IV Form to VI Form as in the case of last grade Government servants.

These concessions will be available from the date of the order, even for a portion of the current year. Vilage officers and servants of Settled ryotwari villages and Karanams including Triune officers of Estate villages taken over by the Government, will be given travelling allowance for their journeys at consolidated rates according to the distance of their respective villages from the Taluq Headquarters. Village headmen of Estate villages taken over by the Government, will also be given certain allowances to cover the actual cost of their journeys on duty. The Government hope that these concessions will go some way to meet the genuine grievances of these loyal public servants. The larger questions connected with the reorganisation of village establishments and their service conditions will require detailed examination from the administrative and financial angles and will be taken up after the general elections.

Another concession proposed is in respect of Harijans converted to Christianity. Some differentiation is being made between these converts and Harijans and there has been an insistent demand for its removal in respect of educational concessions. The Government has now decided to do away with the distinction and to extend to the converts all the educational concessions applicable to Harijans.

The House may be interested to learn that the question of sales-tax on commodities like mill cloth, tobacco and sugar, on which the Central Government are at present levying excise duties at source, was considered at the recent meeting of the National Development Council This Government had been advocating that all State Governments should agree to give up the levy of sales tax on these commodities in lieu of a suitable excise duty to be collected at source by the Centre and to be distributed amongst the States. The Development Council accepted the proposal unanimously and the Central Government may be expected to implement the resolution shortly. This measure may, without causing any loss to State revenues, meet the demand of merchants who have been pressing for the single-point levy of sales-tax.

This Legislature has been in session for nearly five years, and this is the last Budget that I have the honour of presenting to it. I take this opportunity to thank all the Members for the cooperation and assistance they have given me and to the Government during these years. Being in the nature of an interim Budget I do not propose to comment on the different aspects of the administration. The authority on matters relating to the ensuing year can be properly exercised only by our successors who will have the right and the privilege to recast this Budget.

In and around Madras City

By a Staff Reporter

THE new Mayor, Mr K. N. Srinivasan, means business in right earnest. He has begun to acquaint himself of the needs of the different divisions with a view to give priority in tackling them.

The first step towards this was a conference he had with the Councillors of the first ten divisions. Besides the Commissioner, Mr D. S. Balasundaram, heads of departments attended the meeting. The Mayor was eager to know direct from the councillors themselves the urgent requirements of their divisions. He will have similar talks with Councillors of other divisions. This will enable him to have a comprehensive idea of what is to be attended to urgently.

The Mayor's term is short. Therefore, the sooner he goes about these talks and formulates proposals the better, for the time taken for implementation of schemes is unduly long these days.

X'mas Carol

THE Christmas season has begun. And with it comes the singing of Christmas Carol, harbinger of good cheer and mirth.

I hear that this year Christians among the Madras Government servants have got together all available amateur talents, and are presenting an enjoyable hour's progromme of Christmas Carol and seasonal music, supported by a string ensemble. The Service will be in the historic St. Mary's Church, Fort St. George, on Tuesday at 6-15 p.m., in the immediate presence of Mr A. J. John, Governor. The Bishop, Rt Rev Dr D. Chellappa, Dr P. V. Cherian and Mr W. R. S. Sathianadhan, Chief Secretary to Government, will participate.

Handel's "Messiah"

ON Thursday, at the Egmore Wesley Church Christmas music from Handel's "Messiah" will be sung by the Church Choir.

This choir has built up a reputation for its good singing, and in recent times it has given commendable renderings of Haydn's "Creation", Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise", Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" and "Passion", and Elgar's "Apostles". The choir is fortunate in having in its ranks some good solo singers well known to Madras audiences, and the soloists for the forthcoming performance will be Mrs O. Frohlich, Mrs E. Gallyot, and Miss N. Bonjour (Sopranos), Miss N. Bhagianathan and Miss J. Holden (Contraltos), Mr Ranji David (Tenor) and Mr Samuel Goanavolivu (Bass). Through the kind cooperation of instrumentalists in the city, the choir will be accompanied by a small string orchestra, led by the well-known violinist Mr Wilfred Forbes. At the two pianos will be the young Church organist, Jayaseelan Edwin, and his still younger brother, Ebenezer, and the choir will be conducted by Mrs C. Frohlich.

The choir also specialises in the singing of Christmas carols from the Oxford collection, and the Church Carol Service will be held on Dec. 23.

Chunam or cement

WHY not chunam be used extensively to counteract the cement mania was the question raised in the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

This cement affair has, of late, been cropping up almost at every session. What with the building programme going on at a terrific rate all over the country, it is no wonder there is a shortage of this essential commodity. But while those who have undertaken construction of big projects, manage to get cement, it is the small men who suffer most, in this as in other things.

But can't we use chunam, (calcium oxide) in the place of cement though some are apt to call this as going back on the modern methods of construction and engineering science. Whether this may catch the mania or not, the ever enthusiastic member V. Balakrishnan, sees a danger in the suggestion. He fears that taking to the extensive use of chunam may result in the shortage of that commodity, and affect those who are given to chewing betel.

Official Notifications

MADRAS, Dec. 17: Mr T. N. Lakshminarayanan, Deputy Secretary to Government, Public Department, is granted leave for 22 days from Dec 21, and Miss A. R. George, Under-Secretary, Public Department, will act as Deputy Secretary in his place.

Mr C. P. Bhaskara Menon, Treasury Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition (Mettur Canal Scheme), Salem, on relief, to be Additional Personal Assistant to the Collector of Salem, vice Mr S. A. Viswanathan Chettiar, transferred as Additional Assistant Settlement Officer, Krishnagiri.

Mr M Poovappa Bhandary, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies Dharmapuri, is appointed to hold full additional charge of the post of Deputy Registrar, Salem Circle, vice Mr P. Balakrishnan Nayar, granted leave.